Volume 28, Edition 9 September 2024

Valley of the Moon Amateur Radio Club WIRELESS

From Over the Hill

—By Ed W1EJ

A fun time was had at the August meeting with members assembling and testing three element "tape measure" beam antennas for the two-meter band. I believe six antennas were completed and Stan (NJ6E) took his kit home to take advantage of his special tools. He also created some user-friendly enhancements including a 3D printed holder for an offset attenuator device that he built. Stan says it works very well and will use it at our picnic fox hunt. I believe we should have more group projects like this one and I would welcome ideas and suggestions.

If you joined the weekly net tonight you would have noticed a new voice as net control, Carla (W6MOM) . Great job Carla, thank you very much. I hope some other new voices are ready to step in. Your next opportunity is September 25th, plenty of time to download the net script from the web site and practice your "Broadcast" voice.

No net next Wednesday the 18th since we will be having a ZOOM session to get business out of the way to allow more time for fun at the picnic. ZOOM info will be provided the day before.

Don't forget to sign up for the picnic so we know about how many are coming and what you are bringing. Go here: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/13UxYPqug_d9KNZp-1zkxKXdhtZ9L2UDAMqItRa7326E/edit?usp=sharing

Next month's meeting, October 16th, will be at Sonoma PD and on ZOOM. The program will be about using a NanoVNA presented by Stan, NJ6E.

NEXT MEETING
Wed, **October 16, 2024** at 7:30 PM
City of Sonoma Police Department Meeting Room. 7:30 pm. and on zoom.
Topic: U**sing a NanoVNA**
Presenter: **Stan NJ6E**

Minutes of the August 21, 2024 Meeting

ATTENDANCE: MEMBERS ONLINE: KB6CLV (Simon), KE6HID (Andrew), KB6DTL (Steve)

IN PERSON: W1EJ (Ed). WA6CRB (Dan), WB6TMH (Mike), KD6FIL (Dave), WD6BOR (Darrel), NJ6E (Stan), N6TTV (Carl), KA5WSS (Robert), KM6SJG (Jim), KO6DXF (Don), W8EWL

(John), W6MOM (Carla), AA6PP (Antonis), KH6GJV (Bill)

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER at 1930:

Adopt meeting minutes as published in newsletter? There were corrections to the minutes. All attendees were on line. The date was not correct. Meeting was on July 17, 2024

OFFICER REPORTS

NEWSLETTER- Eileen, KG6QNT- absent

ACS – Moe, KI6JNU- KD6FIL Reporting: No ACS Net on September 2 (County Holiday).

VE LIASON- Elizabeth, N6LY. Absent. The July 27 test session was cancelled because no one signed up. The next test session is October 26.

RADIO OFFICER- Mike, WB6TMH- No news.

TRUSTEE- Darrel, WD6BOR- DMR repeater is at KD6RC being programmed and tested.

SECRETARY/TREASURER- Dave, KD6FIL- $4686.80 in the bank. Received the invoice for repair of the DMR repeater. $818.00.

VICE PRESIDENT- VACANT (no call) How do we fill this position?

PRESIDENT- Ed, W1EJ- Need Net control Volunteers. Question how to elect/appoint a vice president.

OLD BUSINESS- Club picnic on September 22. Club will provide BBQ items, sign up sheet will be sent out for people to rsvp and list what this will bring to the BBQ.

DMR repeater has been repaired is at KD6RC being tested and programmed

W6AJF QSL cards. Still looking for a good photo for the card.

NEW BUSINESS: Is the club interested in participating in Lighthouses on the Air in August 2025 at Point Reyes lighthouse. Dave will reach out to Chris at the park service to start the discussion and get the correct contact person.

MEETING TOPIC- Build a tape measure 2m yagi. (8 were built at the meeting) Thank you Ed and Darrel for all the prep work.

NEXT MONTH – Club BBQ and POTA at Sugar Loaf State Park

Mystery Box went to W6MOM, Carla

—Submitted by Dave KD6FIL

VE Liaison News

—By Elizabeth N6LY

Looking to upgrade or join the Ham Radio Hobby?

Come test with us.

Our next testing session will be on Saturday, October 26, 2024.

Sponsor: Valley of the Moon ARC

When: Saturday, October 26

Time: 10:00 AM

Reservations required.

Contact: Elizabeth Morris-Mowrey (N6LY)

Email: n6ly.emm@gmail.com

Location: Sonoma Police Staton EOC

Sonoma CA 95476

This is a testing session only, we don't offer classes or cram sessions.

If you are testing for a new license, you will be required to pay a $35 fee to the FCC, in addition to the fee below.

Once you pass the test, the FCC will send you an email with a link to pay the fee.

You will need to send in payment in order to receive your license and call sign.

This does not apply to upgrades.

Candidate Requirements:

- A photo identification or (2) non-photo ID's
- FCC Registration Number

- Original and a photocopy of your current license (if licensed)
- Any original valid CSCEs and a photocopy of each
- Exam fee is $15.00, Under 18 is $5.00

Why Test With Us?

Every candidate who takes an FCC examination with VOMARC is entitled to a free year of membership in the club, regardless of whether you pass or not! Each applicant is also provided with a welcome kit of some helpful information on how to get started on their Amateur Radio adventure

2M Yagi Build Event

During the August 2024 meeting, we held a 2M Yagi antenna build event. The club's President, Ed (W1EJ), ensured all of the needed parts were provided. Several members brought soldering irons and other tools that were needed to complete the work.

In the end, everyone interested was able to bring home a 2M Yagi. Each antenna consists of PVC tubing and metal measuring tape elements. It's based on the project published by WB2HOL. The collapsible design is perfect for a transmitter hunt!

Club members divided up into small groups to give each other a hand in constructing their antennas.

Dave (KD6FIL) and Carl (N6TTV) solder feedline to the antenna.

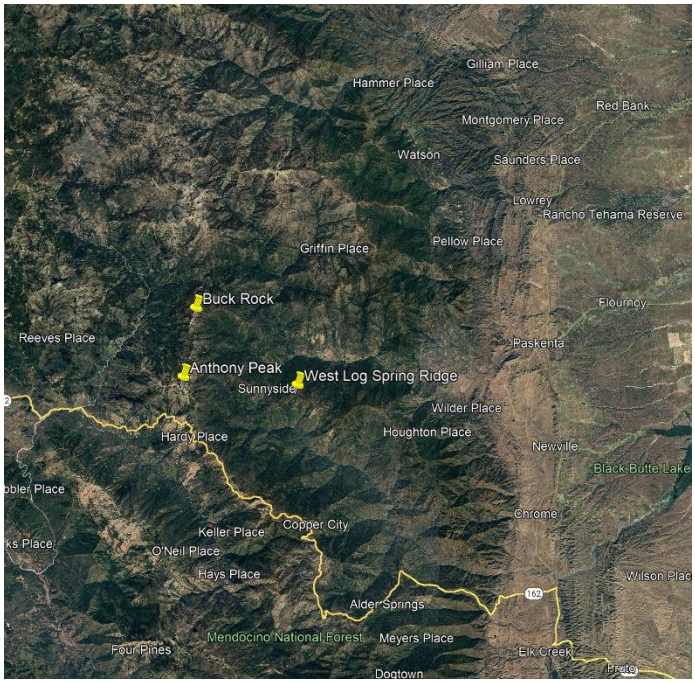
Don (KO6DXF), John (W8EWL) and Bill (KH6GJV) use a Vector Network Analyzer (VNA) to test out the characteristics of a finished antenna.

—Submitted by Robert KA5WSS

400 Miles Driving To Activate 3 Summits East Of Covelo

—By Dave KD6FIL

W1EJ and I activated Anthony Peak, Buck Rock and West Log Springs Ridge on August 15, 2024. The mountains are worth 6 points for SOTA activators. The peaks are located in the Mendocino National Forest (Parks on the Air US-4460). The adventure started at **5 AM** (we do this for fun!) in Cotati and headed north. The road into Covelo, Highway 162, is way longer and curvier than I remembered. The State is doing major repairs on most of the road. After a gas stop in Covelo to fill up, empty out and buy a hat, since I forgot mine, we drove through what there is of Covelo (not much except for the gas stations, grocery store, auto parts store, Forest Service Ranger Station and the Casino) and turned east into the mountains and left the paved roads behind. 29 miles later we made it to the top of Anthony Peak, the tallest mountain in Mendocino County (6954 feet) and site of a fire lookout. We said hi to Maurice, the fire lookout person, and signed his guest book. The area had burned in 2020 in the August Complex Fire but the lookout was still there. We operated



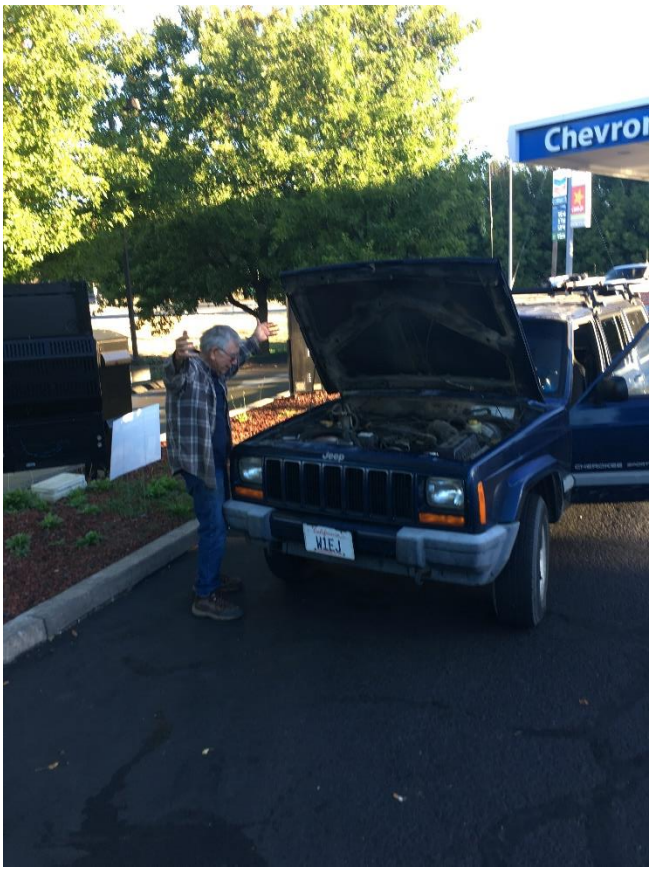
for about 1.5 hours. The band conditions were good and I was seeing European stations being

decoded on my FT8 screen. Not bad for using a very low End Fed Halfwave Antenna. Looking east from Anthony Peak you can see Black Butte Lake and Orland in the Central Valley. The views were really amazing. After I made 5 contacts (Ed made 16 CW contacts), we packed up and drove about 11 miles of more dirt roads to Buck Rock. The last part of the road to Buck Rock was very steep and I was glad Ed had a 4 wheel drive jeep! 7 more contacts (Ed made 19) on the summit and we drove back down the steep section of

road and 11 miles east into Tehama County on to West Log Springs Ridge. The West Log Springs Ridge summit was in a grove of trees and not much of a view, but much warmer than the first

2 summits. The first 2 summits required a jacket! I made 4 contacts to count as a SOTA activation (Ed made 13). Getting out and operating in the field is a lot of fun. The VOMARC BBQ at Sugarloaf State Park will be an opportunity to try out a Parks On the Air Activation on September 22.

This was a SOTA trip to three summits in the Mendocino National Forest out of Upper Lake on September 3 that ended not long after it started

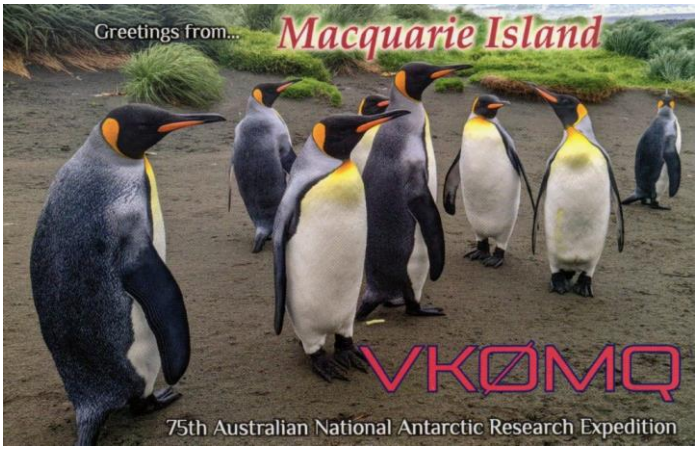


with car failure at the gas station in Upper Lake! We did make it home without a tow truck! It was still a great adventure!

10' dish antenna. Free to a good home.

Contact Mike WB6TMH

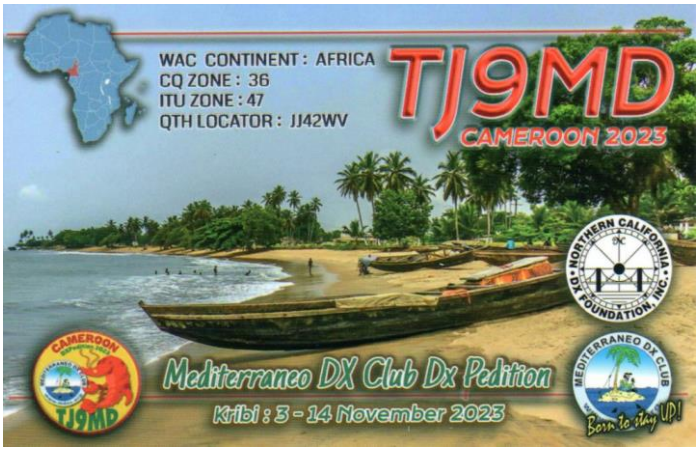
QSL Card Inbox



I worked VK0MQ on 20M using FT8 for an All Time New One (ATNO). Unfortunately, it was the only contact with Macquarie Island I was able to make. South of New Zealand, Macquarie is described as being in both the Pacific and Southern Oceans.

QSL Card Inbox *(Continued)*

I had worked Saint Helena before but this QSL card from ZD7Z filled in a few band and mode gaps for me. I work Elvira using FT4 on the 10M, 15M and 20M bands. The lonely figure looking out to sea is Napoleon, who was exiled to the remote outpost after his defeat at Waterloo.



Several contacts with TJ9MD in Cameroon also filled in some missing bands and modes. I worked the DXpedition on the 20M, 40M and 80M bands using CW, FT8 and SSB.

—Submitted by Robert KA5WSS

THE VOMARC WIRELESS

VOLUME 28 EDITION 9

A PUBLICATION OF VOMARC, THE VALLEY OF THE MOON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB – W6AJF

Frank C. Jones – W6AJF

Honorary President in Perpetuity

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Ed Jacobson, W1EJ – President

– Vice President

Dave Dammuller, KD6FIL – Secretary/Treasurer

Mike Miller, WB6TMH – Radio Officer

Moe Llanes, KI6JNU – ACS Unit Leader

Elizabeth Morris-Mowrey, N6LY – VE Liaison

Darrel Jones, WD6BOR – Station Trustee for W6AJF

Eileen Adams, KG6QNT – Editor

Robert Barron, KA5WSS — Webmeister

"Receipt of the Wireless is one of the most sought after benefits of membership in VOMARC. "—S. Marler

WEB PAGE: **http://www.vomarc.org/**

Nets are held every Wednesday night at 19:30 (7:30 P.M.) local, except meeting nights on the 145.350 repeater, -600 kHz, PL 88.5 Hz.

Breakfast Nets are held every Tuesday and Saturday morning at 7:30 AM on the 146.205, +600, PL 88.5 Hz repeater.

Comments and submissions of material may be sent to:

Eileen@vom.com

–or–

Valley of the Moon ARC, Inc.
C/O Sonoma Police Department
175 First Street West
Sonoma, CA 95476

ACS

NET CONTROL ASSIGNMENTS

	Name	Call
JANUARY	MOE	KI6JNU
FEBRUARY	SCOTT	KJ6QIQ
MARCH	SCOTT	KJ6QIQ
APRIL	JIM	K6UUW
MAY	DICK	KF6FZM
JUNE	MOE	KI6JNU
JULY		
AUGUST	BILL	KJ6EIG
SEPTEMBER	SAM	W5LTP
OCTOBER	DICK	KF6FZM
NOVEMBER	MIKE	WB6TMH
DECEMBER	DARREL	WD6BOR

VOMARC

NET CONTROL ASSIGNMENTS

	Name	Call
JANUARY	ROBERT	KA5WSS
FEBRUARY	DARREL	WD6BOR
MARCH	MOE	KI6JNU
APRIL	DAVE	KD6FIL
MAY	ED	W1EJ
JUNE	FRANK	KG6N
JULY	ED	W1EJ
AUGUST	CARL	N6TTV
SEPTEMBER	ED	WIEJ
OCTOBER	JOHN	W8EWL
NOVEMBER	MIKE	WB6TMH
DECEMBER	DARREL	WD6BOR

VOMARC MEMBERSHIP 2024

Membership Dues: $15/year individual; $5/year family member at same address.

VOMARC encourages its members to join the ARRL. More information is available at www.arrl.org.

QST is available to blind and physically handicapped individuals on audio cassette from the Library of Congress, National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. Call 1-800-424-8567.

Name: _____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

Address: _____ APT: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Name: _____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

Name: _____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

VOMARC Membership: Complimentary with Class—Date: _____

Membership Moment, From the Database Queen:

Dues may be mailed to VOMARC in care of the Sonoma Police Department, 175 1st St West, CA 95476, or brought to the next meeting. Your check should be made payable to: **VOMARC.**